

Minutes

City Council

Monday, February 28, 2022

Page 3 of 20

That Council do now rise and move into Committee of the Whole with the Mayor presiding for the purpose of dealing with:

- (a) communication items;
- (b) consent agenda;
- (c) hearing requests for deferrals, referrals and/or withdrawals of any items of business;
- (d) hearing presentations and delegations;
- (e) consideration of business items;
- (f) consideration of Committee reports;
- (g) Report of Special In-Camera Meeting or other Committee as may be held prior to Council (if scheduled); and
- (h) consideration of by-laws 47-2022 through 50-2022 (inclusive).

Carried.

7. COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION PACKAGE

7.1. Correspondence for Monday, February 28, 2022

Moved by: Councillor Morrison

Seconded by: Councillor Sleiman

Decision Number: CR78/2022

That the following Communication Items 7.1.2, 7.1.4, and 7.1.5 as set forth in the Council Agenda **BE REFERRED** as noted; and that Items 7.1.3, 7.1.6, and 7.1.1 be dealt with as follows:

7.1.3. Letter advocating for federal government support for businesses impacted by the recent illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge and ongoing restrictions on Huron Church Road

AND

7.1.6. Letter requesting provincial government relief for businesses impacted by the illegal blockade of the Ambassador Bridge and its aftermath on Huron Church Road

Moved by: Councillor Morrison

Seconded by: Councillor Francis

Decision Number: CR79/2022

That the correspondence from the City of Windsor, Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island, as well as the Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) – Windsor West dated February 24, 2022 and February 18, 2022 respectively regarding the

Minutes

City Council

Monday, February 28, 2022

Page 4 of 20

illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge and ongoing restrictions on Huron Church Road **BE RECEIVED** for information; and further,

That Administration **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter to the federal and provincial governments advocating for financial aid for Windsor businesses that were affected by the illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge and ongoing restrictions on Huron Church Road.
Carried.

Clerk's File: GM2022 & GP2022

7.1.1. Letter regarding accelerated transmission development in southwest Ontario

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Francis

Decision Number: CR80/2022

That the correspondence from the Minister of Energy dated February 16, 2022 regarding accelerated transmission development in southwest Ontario **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

That Council **ENDORSE** initiatives undertaken by the Province and energy providers currently underway to augment regional energy transmission capacity, including the prioritization of the Longwood to Lakeshore Line, the Windsor to Lakeshore Line as well as the Chatham to Lakeshore Line; and,

That Council **SUPPORT** initiatives that will help to accelerate the implementation of increased transmission capacity where feasible and appropriate given legislated requirements, particularly as it relates to community consultation; and further,

That the Minister of Energy **BE NOTIFIED** of Council's decision.
Carried.

Clerk's File: GP2022

No.	Sender	Subject
7.1.1.	Ministry of Energy	Letter regarding accelerated transmission development in southwest Ontario Manager, Energy Initiatives GP2022 Note & File



WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL
Chamber of Commerce



February 24, 2022

The Honourable Helena Jaczek
Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6
Helena.Jaczek@parl.gc.ca

Dear Minister Jaczek:

As business, tourism and municipal leaders in Windsor we are joined in our effort today to advocate for urgent and immediate support from the federal government for businesses that have been impacted by the recent illegal occupation of the Ambassador Bridge and the ongoing restrictions on Huron Church Road, leading to the Bridge.

We were disappointed to learn, recently, that the program established by your Ministry and administered by Invest Ottawa was limited to downtown-Ottawa area businesses, and expressly excluded those businesses which continue to see impacts in west-end Windsor.

As you are aware, the City of Windsor was site to an illegal occupation at the foot of the Ambassador Bridge, disrupting trade and commerce for the United States and Canada for nearly a week. Subsequent to a successful Injunction Order granted by Ontario Superior Court Chief Justice Morawetz, on February 11, 2022 Windsor Police, with the tactical assistance of the OPP and RCMP were able to clear the roadway for traffic once again on February 14, 2022. However, since that time, the national security threats posed by the continued risk of recidivism and potential protest activity has resulted in a heightened security presence along Huron Church Road, the municipal artery which connects the Ambassador Bridge to Ontario's 401 highway system. While local police are doing their best to clear access to impacted businesses along Huron Church Road, for dozens of establishments along this roadway, access to their business remains limited and commercial traffic reduced as a result.

Windsor Police, and their partners in law enforcement have done an exemplary job in quickly clearing the illegal occupation and maintaining the security of Huron Church Road for over \$400-million in goods that travel this crossing each day. Unfortunately, the price of that economic security has meant a significant and sustained loss for small and medium sized businesses who operate along Huron Church Road in Windsor.

We urge you to offer similar compensation as your Government has done to impacted businesses in downtown Ottawa to the comparatively much smaller number of impacted entrepreneurs here in Windsor. To not offer comparable support sends a clear signal from your Government that businesses in Windsor are second-class to those in the shadow of Parliament Hill. The federal government has shown leadership during each stage of this pandemic, offering support for individuals, families and businesses impacted by the public health restrictions.

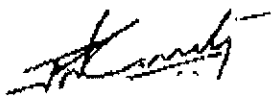
We urge you to show the same level of leadership and support the business community along Huron Church Road, who managed through the pandemic and now must cope with police barricades designed to protect our national economy from those who would seek to disrupt it because they oppose Canada's pandemic-related policies.

We appreciate your swift attention to this matter and would be available to meet at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Drew Dilkens
Mayor, City of Windsor
T: 519-255-6315
E: mayoro@citywindsor.ca



Rakesh Naidu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
T: 519-966-3696 ext. 222
E: rnaidu@windsoressexchamber.org



Gordon Orr
Chief Executive Officer
Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island
T: 519-253-3616
E: gorr@tourismwindsoressex.com



Lisa Gretzky
MPP Windsor West

Queen's Park
Room 172, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5
☎ 416-325-0235 📠 416-325-0873
✉ LGretzky-QP@ndp.on.ca

Item No. 7.1.6.

Feb 28 Public agenda
Community Office
2443 Dougall Ave.
Windsor, ON N8X 1T3
☎ 519-977-7191 📠 519-977-7029
✉ LGretzky-CO@ndp.on.ca
lisagretzkyinpp.ca

18 February 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

As you know, the blockade that shut down the Ambassador Bridge in my riding last week severely impacted businesses across the province. Since then, the road leading to the border crossing, Huron Church Road, has been lined by cement barricades and several cross streets have been closed to vehicular traffic to prevent any possible repetition of that protest.

I am sure you understand that the precautions law enforcement officials have taken to prevent another blockade have caused significant difficulties for local businesses, residents, and taxpayers in Windsor West. Access to retail stores, medical offices, animal hospitals, restaurants and professional offices have been severely restricted and, in some cases, have necessitated temporary business closures.

The province needs to step in immediately to provide relief and replace the income workers and small businesses lost because of the blockade. Working people should not have to pay for the illegal blockade and its aftermath. Small businesses have already suffered tremendously these last two years.

Premier, I urge you to step up and provide the resources these people urgently need. Whether it's communities like ours here in Windsor, in Ottawa, Sarnia or Toronto – small businesses and residents need strong leadership that will be there for them when they need it most. They need your government's support now.

Windsor needs to know you will act immediately to ensure that this city does not have to pay any more than it has already.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gretzky MPP Windsor West

